

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Thrice Amended) A composition comprising a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide), the blend having improved melt processability and mechanical properties without the addition of plasticizers; and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

3. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

4. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

7. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

8. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

13. (Thrice Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition comprising a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

14. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more vinyl monomers.

15. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

16. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

18. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

19. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the one or more monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

24. (Thrice Amended) A thermoplastic, water-soluble composition consisting essentially of a compatible blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide);

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

25. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

26. (Thrice Amended) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the one or more monomers comprise one or more hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

33. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

34. (Amended) The film of Claim 27, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

Please add the following new claims:

35. (New) The composition of Claim 13, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

36. (New) The composition of Claim 24, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

37. (New) The fiber of Claim 28, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

38. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

39. (New) A composition comprising a melt blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide), the blend having improved melt processability and mechanical properties without the addition of plasticizers;

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone; and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins with number average molecular weights of about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol.

40. (New) A film comprising the composition of Claim 39.

41. (New) A fiber comprising the composition of Claim 39.

42. (New) An article comprising the composition of Claim 39.

43. (New) A personal care article comprising the composition of Claim 39.